

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (strikethrough or [[double-brackets]] indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1. (original) A lancing device comprising:
a drive mechanism comprising a drive spring and a carrier driven by the drive spring; and
a lancet that is decoupled from the drive mechanism and slidably floats relative to the carrier during at least a portion of a lancing stroke.
2. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, wherein the carrier engages and drives the lancet through a first portion of the lancing stroke, and wherein the lancet is inertially propelled through a second portion of the lancing stroke after the carrier is stopped.
3. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, wherein the lancing stroke includes the lancet moving from a retracted position to an extended position, wherein the drive mechanism is decoupled from the lancet when the lancet is in the extended position.
4. (original) The lancing device of Claim 3, further comprising a carrier stop member that limits the travel of the carrier before the lancet reaches the extended position.
5. (original) The lancing device of Claim 4, wherein the carrier stop does not limit the travel of the lancet, wherein, after the carrier is stopped by the carrier stop, the lancet decouples from the carrier and slidably floats relative to the carrier as it continues moving toward the extended position.

6. (original) The lancing device of Claim 4, further comprising a lancet stop member that limits the travel of the lancet in the extended position, the lancet stop being a separate structure from the carrier stop.

7. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising a sled that receives or includes the lancet and that is slidably received in the carrier.

8. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising a housing defining an axial chamber, wherein the carrier comprises:

a carriage slidably received in the housing chamber, the carriage defining a bore that slidably receives the lancet; and

one or more wings extending outwardly of the housing, wherein the lancing device is armed by retracting the wings to a cocked position with the carrier in a retracted position.

9. (original) The lancing device of Claim 8, further comprising one or more struts extending between the carriage and the wings, and projecting through one or more slots in the housing, wherein, after the lancing device is fired but before the lancet reaches an extended position, the carrier is stopped by the carrier struts engaging one or more stop surfaces defined by the housing slots.

10. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising a cocking mechanism comprising at least one cocking arm extending from the drive mechanism, and an engagement surface for retaining the cocking arm in a cocked position with the carrier in a retracted position.

11. (original) The lancing device of Claim 10, further comprising a trigger mechanism including a release button with a catch release member that, when the release button is moved, engages the cocking arm and releases the carrier to move to an extended position.

12. (original) The lancing device of Claim 1, further comprising an endcap with at least a portion that rotates to adjust a penetration depth of the lancet.

13-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A lancing device comprising:

a housing defining an axial chamber;

a lancet moveable through a lancing stroke between a retracted position and an extended position; and

a drive mechanism including a drive spring and a carrier, wherein the carrier comprising a carriage slidably received in the housing chamber, the carriage defining a bore that slidably receives the lancet, one or more wings extending outwardly of the housing, and one or more struts extending between the carriage and the wings, and projecting through one or more slots in the housing,

wherein the lancing device is armed by retracting the wings to a cocked position with the carrier in the retracted position and, after the lancing device is fired, the carrier is driven by the drive spring and in response thereto engages and drives the lancet through a first portion of the lancing stroke until the carrier is stopped by the carrier struts engaging one or more stop surfaces defined by the housing slots, and the lancet is decoupled from the carrier and inertially propelled through a second portion of the lancing stroke after the carrier is stopped.

20. (original) The lancing device of Claim 19, further comprising a cocking mechanism including at least one cocking arm extending from the drive mechanism and defining a catch surface, and an engagement surface defined by the housing for retaining the catch surface with the carrier in the retracted position, and further comprising a trigger mechanism including a release button with a catch release member that, when the release button is moved, engages the catch surface of the cocking arm and releases the carrier to move to the extended position.

21. (currently amended) A lancing device comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a lancet defining at least one contact surface;
 - a drive mechanism including a drive member that engages and drives the lancet;
 - and
 - an endcap that rotates relative to the housing and that has a plurality of stop surfaces that are selectively aligned with an-and engaged by the lancet contact surface to limit forward lancet movement.
22. (original) The lancing device of Claim 21, wherein the drive member comprises a carriage that receives the lancet and that has a flared proximal section defining a flared bore that receives the endcap stop surfaces not aligned with and engaged by the lancet body engagement surface.
23. (new) The lancing device of Claim 21, wherein the drive mechanism and the lancet each have at least one key member and the key members cooperate to orient the lancet within the housing.
24. (new) The lancing device of Claim 23, wherein the lancet body is T-shaped with four arms defining the at least one lancet key member, wherein at least one of the arms is longer than the other arms.
25. (new) The lancing device of Claim 21, wherein the lancet body includes at least one radially extending arm defining the at least one lancet key member and also defining the at least one lancet contact surface.
26. (new) The lancing device of Claim 21, wherein the endcap stop surfaces are defined by protrusions extending distally from the endcap.

27. (new) The lancing device of Claim 26, wherein the protrusions are arranged generally circumferentially relative to the lancet so that the lancet contact surface interferes with the protrusions to stop the lancet but the rest of the lancet is circumscribed by the protrusions.
28. (new) The lancing device of Claim 10, wherein the cocking arm extends from the carrier.
29. (new) The lancing device of Claim 7, further comprising a cocking mechanism comprising at least one cocking arm extending from the drive mechanism and an engagement surface for retaining the cocking arm in a cocked position with the carrier in a retracted position, wherein the cocking arm extends from the sled.